

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims according to the following listing of the claims.

1. (Currently Amended) Feeder device for bars, ~~able to for picking up and removing, in a pick up and remove cycle,~~ selectively from a bundle at least ~~[[a]]one bar-in order~~ to arrange ~~[[it]]the at least one bar~~ for use in an operating machine, the device comprising:

a first magnetic means ~~able to separate~~ for separating from said bundle at least an end segment of a plurality of bars and ~~to arrange~~ arranging at least the end segments of said plurality of bars on a plane distanced with respect to said bundle, ~~and characterized in that it comprises~~

a second magnetic means for picking ~~able to pick up,~~ from said first magnetic means, at least one bar at a time from said plurality of bars and to unload said at least one bar in a desired release position.

2. (Currently Amended) Device as in claim 1, wherein said first magnetic means is moveable ~~are associated with movement means able to move them,~~ at least in a first step of the pick-up and removal cycle and at least for a part of their movement, in a first operating direction substantially orthogonal to a plane on which said bundle of bars lies, ~~in order~~ to raise the end segments of said plurality of bars with respect to said bundle.

3. (Currently Amended) Device as in claim 1, wherein said second magnetic means is moveable ~~are associated with second movement means for moving the second magnetic means able to move them,~~ at least in a second step of the pick-up and removal cycle, in a second operating direction parallel, curved or slant-wise with respect to said bars supported by said first magnetic means ~~in order~~ to pick up therefrom one or more bars and to displace them towards said desired release position.

4. (Currently Amended) Device as in claim 3, wherein said second magnetic means ~~have~~ has a first advanced pick-up position, wherein ~~[[they cooperate]]the second magnetic means cooperates~~ with said first magnetic means ~~in order~~ to pick up therefrom said at least one bar, and wherein the second magnetic means has a second retracted release position, and wherein the feeder device further comprises a stop element being

arranged along the return travel of said second magnetic means ~~in order~~ to determine the fall ~~[[therefrom]]~~ of said at least one bar from the second retracted release position.

5. (Currently Amended) Device as in claim 4, wherein said stop element has an at least partly curved conformation ~~in order~~ to determine a progressive detachment of said at least one bar from said second magnetic means.

6. (Currently Amended) Device as in claim 4, wherein a guide slide is ~~associated with~~ located relative to said stop element ~~in order~~ to guide said at least one bar ~~(11)~~ after it has been detached from said second magnetic means.

7. (Currently Amended) Device as in claim 4, wherein in said second release position said second magnetic means ~~[[are]]~~ is arranged substantially in correspondence with a drawing assembly of said operating machine, into which said at least one bar is able to be unloaded.

8. (Currently Amended) Device as in claim 7, further comprising means for correcting ~~wherein in correspondence with said second release position there are means able to be selectively activated in order to correct positioning and/or alignment defects of said one or more bars with respect to said drawing assembly at the second release position, wherein the means for correcting is selectively activatable.~~

9. (Currently Amended) Device as in claim 8, wherein said means for correcting ~~able to be selectively activated comprise~~ comprises a pair of rollers having a first reciprocally distanced inactive position and a second operating position wherein ~~[[they]]~~ the pair of rollers are closed on said at least one bar.

10. (Currently Amended) Device as in claim 1, wherein in cooperation with the leading ends of said bars, there is a header element ~~able to be~~ for being selectively activated at least when a plurality of bars have been picked up by said first magnetic means, are raised with respect to said bundle and are arranged substantially on a single plane.

11. (Currently Amended) Device as in claim 1, wherein said first magnetic means ~~comprise~~ comprises a magnetic element with a size, in a direction transverse to the longitudinal development of the bars, at least equal to the width of said bundle.

12. (Currently Amended) Device as in claim 11, wherein said magnetic element is mounted on a relative supporting arm by ~~means of~~ an articulated connection.

13. (Currently Amended) Device as in claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and/or magnetic means and the second magnetic means comprise an electromagnet ~~electromagnets associated with selective feed means.~~

14. (Currently Amended) Device as in claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and/or magnetic means and second magnetic means comprise a permanent magnet ~~magnets.~~

15. (Currently Amended) Device as in claim 1, wherein ~~detection means are associated with~~ said second magnetic means has a detector in order to detect the second magnetic means is returning from attempting to pick up at least one said bar from the first magnetic means without at least one said bar due to the absence of bars on said first magnetic means and to give consent for a new pick-up cycle by said first magnetic means.

16. (Currently Amended) Device as in claim 1, wherein said bars are arranged in a plurality of housing seatings each one housing bars of different sizes, said housing seatings being reciprocally and selectively movable with respect to said first magnetic means ~~in order~~ to allow the sequential pick-up of bars even of different sizes.

17. (Currently Amended) Device as in claim 1, wherein the first magnetic means and the second magnetic means are mounted on a movable support for moving ~~suitable to move~~ in correspondence with the zone where there is said bundle from which said bars are to be picked up.

18. (Currently Amended) Method to feed bars, used to pick up and selectively remove from a bundle at least one bar ~~in order~~ to arrange [[it] the at least one bar for use in an operating machine, comprising the steps of:

~~a first step wherein bringing a~~ first magnetic means ~~are brought~~ near said bundle ~~in order~~ to magnetically attract an end segment of a plurality of bars and distance [[them]] the plurality of bars from said bundle, and

~~a second step wherein bringing a~~ second magnetic means ~~are brought~~ near said first magnetic means ~~in order~~ to pick up from the first magnetic means therefrom at least one of said plurality of bars, and are then is distanced from the first magnetic means therefrom in order to arrange said at least one bar in a desired release position.

19. (Currently Amended) Method as in claim 18, wherein said second

magnetic means ~~[[are]]~~ is moved from a first advanced pick-up position cooperating with said first magnetic means ~~in order~~ to pick up said at least one bar to a second retracted release position wherein ~~they cooperate~~ said second magnetic means cooperates with a drawing assembly of said operating machine ~~in order~~ to release said at least one bar into said drawing assembly.

20. (Currently Amended) Method as in claim 18, wherein between said ~~first step of~~ distancing [a] the plurality of bars from the bundle by the first magnetic means and said ~~second step of~~ picking up at least one bar by the second magnetic means, ~~it provides at least a heading step performed by the method further comprises moving a~~ header element against respective ends of the bars of the plurality of bars ~~in order~~ to make the longitudinal positioning of said plurality of bars equal.

21. (Currently Amended) Method as in claim 18, wherein after the release of said at least one bar by the second magnetic means, ~~it provides at least a step to correct~~ the method further comprises correcting possible defects in the positioning of said bars inside said drawing assembly.

22. (New) Device as in claim 2, wherein said second magnetic means is moveable at least in a second step of the pick-up and removal cycle, in a second operating direction parallel, curved or slant-wise with respect to said bars supported by said first magnetic means to pick up therefrom one or more bars and to displace them towards said desired release position.

23. (New) Method as in claim 18, wherein said first magnetic means moves at least in a first step of the pick-up and removal cycle and at least for a part of their movement, in a first operating direction substantially orthogonal to a plane on which said bundle of bars lies to raise the end segments of said plurality of bars with respect to said bundle, wherein said second magnetic means moves at least in a second step of the pick-up and removal cycle, in a second operating direction parallel, curved or slant-wise with respect to said bars supported by said first magnetic means to pick up therefrom one or more bars and to displace them towards said desired release position.

24. (New) Device as in claim 1, wherein said second magnetic means has a direction of movement substantially perpendicular to a lowering and lifting direction of

movement of the first magnetic means, to pick up one bar at a time from the first magnetic means and move the picked-up bar towards a discharge and operating position.

25. (New) Method as in claim 18, wherein said second magnetic means has a direction of movement substantially perpendicular to a lowering and lifting direction of movement of the first magnetic means, to pick up one bar at a time from the first magnetic means and move the picked-up bar towards a discharge and operating position.